

**CONTACT: Cheryl Collier, 213/236-1942**  
**Jeff Lustgarten, 323/466-3445**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 12, 2007**



**INAUGURAL REGIONAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY  
KICKS OFF FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ELECTED OFFICIALS**

**Los Angeles** - Fourteen elected officials from throughout Southern California are participating in the inaugural Regional Leadership Academy under the auspices of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). The Regional Leadership Academy program is designed specifically for the elected officials who serve as members of the SCAG Regional Council and its policy committees. This program will offer new approaches aimed at enhancing leadership skills and expertise in regional planning.

"Public policy leadership development will greatly improve our ability to address local and regional issues," said Yvonne B. Burke, Los Angeles County Supervisor and SCAG President. "I applaud SCAG for offering this enrichment experience and hope that elected leaders from throughout Southern California will continue to participate in future Leadership Academies."

To develop and conduct the Leadership Academy, SCAG went through a competitive bid process and selected a team of top University of Southern California experts in the fields corresponding to SCAG's mission of resolving regional challenges, including governance, urban planning, public health and civic engagement. The program will consist of five intensive workshops, and will run from March through June 2007.

This year's participants include:

- Councilmember Harry Baldwin, San Gabriel
- Councilmember Christine Barnes, La Palma
- Councilmember John Beauman, Brea
- Councilmember Glen Becerra, Simi Valley
- Councilmember Stan Carroll, La Habra Heights
- Mayor Kelly Chastain, Colton
- Councilmember Debbie Cook, Huntington Beach
- Mayor Pro Tem Lee Ann Garcia, Grand Terrace
- Councilmember Larry McCallon, Highland
- Councilmember Katherine McCullough, Lake Forest
- Supervisor Gary Ovitt, County of San Bernardino
- Councilmember Tonia Reyes Uranga, Long Beach
- Councilmember Alan Wapner, Ontario
- Councilmember Joe Mosca, Sierra Madre